it was about only 1.9 per cent, and, in the coming months, we hope to see a rise in foreign tourist arrivals in the country.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the question is very much related to the State of Andhra Pradesh. The first part of the question is related to the domestic tourism. The only thing which I would like to know is with regard to improving the domestic tourism. There is a plan to promote tea-tourism in the State of West Bengal, especially in Darjeeling. There is ample scope for that. On behalf of the Government of West Bengal, we had a discussion with the Tourism Department of the Government of India. May I know, through you, Sir, what is the plan of the Government of India to do this? Will the Minister come out with some information?

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, we must definitely increase the domestic tourism within the country and for that, we plan to have many events. We plan to have media campaign for domestic tourism; the incredible-India campaign will be extended to our own domestic market.

As far as Bengal and that area is concerned, we are planning to have a road show for the eastern region to show case that part of our country to the domestic market because in the wake of global economic slow down, we must increase domestic tourism in our country. As a part of our strategy, we are soon going to have a road show in Bengal.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, in order to increase tourists in the country, whether domestic or international, one of the things which is required is to increase the room capacity in each State, that is, providing more and more hotels, whether they are five star, two star, three star, or, whatever.

Sir, for the guidance of the tourists, categorisation of hotels is a must. I would like to know whether there is any law which permits either the Central Government or the State Governments to categorise hotels, especially, the five star hotels. Who categorises these five star and other hotels? Whether the concerned State Government has this power or it is the Central Government, which does this categorisation. Sir, I am asking this question because in Goa, there was some controversy about this.

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, it is the Central Government, the Ministry of Tourism, which categorises these hotels into different star categories.

Earmarked seats for diaspora children

*4. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:††

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has earmarked certain percentage of seats in higher education for diaspora children;

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

(b) if so, the details thereof for last five years, year-wise, discipline-wise;

(c) whether this scheme covers only Government owned and aided institutions;

(d) if so, the details of the diaspora students enrolled during last five years, institution-wise;

(e) the nodal agency, which allocated such seats to individual institutions;

(f) whether the students are given a choice to select the institutions;

(g) whether the fees chargeable from such students differ from normal fees; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (h) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (h) The Government has approved 15% seats in all the institutions/University departments approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), offering technical courses leading to Diploma, Degree and Post-Graduate Degree in Engineering and Technology, Architecture and Town Planning, Pharmacy, Applied Arts, MBA and MCA, Hotel Management and Catering Technology. These supernumerary seats, over and above the approved intake, are reserved for foreign nationals/persons of Indian origin/children of workers in Gulf countries. One-third of these 15% supernumerary seats across different disciplines are reserved, for the children of Indian workers in the Gulf countries.

Similarly, UGC has issued orders for creation of 15% supernumerary seats for foreign students, out of which one-third shall be earmarked for the children of Indian workers in the Gulf.

There is no designated nodal agency for allocating seats to individual institutions.

Data with regard to the number of diaspora students enrolled, year-wise, discipline-wise, institution-wise for seats available under the supernumerary scheme and fee-charged from them is not maintained.

Admission of foreign students, including diaspora children, to any educational institution is based on the criteria prescribed by the institution for the course to which admission is sought.

The tuition fee charged from foreigners is higher than that charged from Indian students. Such fee differs from institution to institution and course to course, as these are decided by the concerned authorities. However, as per the AICTE notification, the children of Indian workers in the Gulf countries shall be charged the same tuition fee as charged from resident Indian students.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister straightaway the details of the scholarship schemes for the diaspora children; the annual details

of the number of students availing such schemes; whether these schemes are being operated by multiple agencies/Ministries; if he has rationale for such multiplicity; would the Government consider creating one nodal agency to operate all these schemes?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, as far as scholarships are concerned, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is offering hundred scholarships every year. Data regarding other scholarships is not available with me; it should be with the concerned Ministries. It is true, Sir, that there is no nodal agency as such today. Different Ministries are offering different scholarships. For the HRD Ministry, the AICTE and the UGC are making the guidelines. As far as medical seats are concerned, the MCI is doing this work, which is under the Health Ministry. So, there is no nodal agency as such. A single agency is not functioning for allotment of the seats. Sir, the AICIL is an autonomous body under the HRD Ministry. They are placing the students who are applying through them. This is the only system here. The proposal, whether a single nodal agency can be instituted, is worth consideration. This is a suggestion for action.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Thank you, Sir. In my second supplementary I will refer to the last but one paragraph of the reply given by the hon. Minister which is regarding admission of foreign students including diaspora children to any educational institution is based on the criteria prescribed by the institution for the course to which the admission is sought. I would like to know if the level of cut off marks for the foreign students is the same for Indian students or it is different. Similarly, Sir, I would like to know whether the tuition fee charges for foreign students, though they are of Indian origin, are higher. If these are higher, as the hon. Minister has mentioned, what is the reason for charging them higher fee and who controls these rates, etc., or is it free for all institutions?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, regarding the fee structure, with respect to private institutions, the fee varies from institution to institution. With respect to the Government institutions also, it differs from State to State. So, there is no uniform fee for the technical education or the medical education in the country as on today. But, as far as technical education and other higher education are concerned, they are charging the same fee from all the Indian students. In case of NRI students, they charge a little more. But there is a five per cent reservation in this area for the children of the workers who are working in the Gulf area. They are paying the same fee as the Indian students. But, as far as medical colleges are concerned, the NRI students who are coming for the 15 per cent quota, within the allotted seats, they are paying a little more than what the Indian students are paying.

Sir, apart from this, I would like to add one more thing. The ICCR is also placing students in different institutions when the applications go through them. So, these are the agencies working today.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Minister, you have said in your reply that 15 per cent seats are reserved for children of diaspora Indians. The real area of great attraction is medical

and engineering and I wish to tell you that those students of the diaspora have not to appear in the competitive examination. That is an exemption for them. But large number of irregularities are taking place in private medical colleges. They give a short time and then fill it up on higher premium from local students. This is an area which directly comes under your concern. You have just said no nodal agency is there. Would you kindly intervene in the matter and take it up on a priority basis to end rank corruption and mismanagement which is going on as far as infusion of NRI quota in medical education in the country in both State and private institutions is concerned?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, we meet the demand of medical seats in India of foreign students, which include the PIO students as well as the foreign nationals, apart from the children of people working in the Gulf. Allegations are there in respect of 15 per cent of the seats, which have been earmarked, within the purview of the allotted seats, for the NRI students. There is no nodal agency which distributes the seats. It is left to each institution. The allegation is that they are charging the capitation fee. Nobody denied it also. There is no legislation to control it. I also want to inform my friend that the medical education is under the control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. I will, definitely, convey the anxiety of the hon. Member to the concerned Minister.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: He is sitting behind you.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I will convey your suggestion to the hon. Minister.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, it is a welcome measure that the Government has reserved 15 per cent of the seats for the diaspora children. But the fact of the matter is that when it comes to fee, each institution is charging fee according to their whims and fancies and some of the institutions are charging exorbitantly high fee and diaspora children are not able to pay that. The fee is not affordable. When the Government can reserve or direct the institutions to reserve 15 per cent of the seats for diaspora children, what prevents the Government from moderating the fee to these fifteen per cent students? Unless that is done, there is no use of the reservation of 15 per cent. Will the hon. Minister take some steps in that direction?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, as far as technical education is concerned, an order has been issued by the AICTE in 2004; and the UGC also issued an order in the field of higher education. The AICTE in its order says that you go by the guidelines and norms fixed by it. Every institution should follow them and then the AICTE gives an approval. The fifteen per cent seats is supernumerary. That also is to get the permission from the AICTE, and provided they obey or implement all the norms and guidelines issued by it. As such, the hon. Member is absolutely correct, there is no restriction or guideline as far as the fee structure of institutions is concerned. This is a matter of concern, and it has been expressed by many NRIs to me too. But, definitely, a decision is yet to be taken. This matter has to be referred to the AICTE and the HRD Ministry to consider how to regulate the fee structure of these institutions.

श्री गंगा चरण: सभापति महोदय, एनआरआई कोटा 15 परसेंट है लेकिन इसमें एनआरआई लिए ही नहीं जाते हैं। ज्यादातर हमारे भारतीय लोग ही भारी कैपिटेशन फीस दे कर मेडिकल एंड टेक्निकल इंस्टीट्युशन्स में एडमिशन ले रहे हैं। इनमें एनआरआई कोटे का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या वह इसकी कोई उच्च स्तरीय जांच करवाने जा रहे हैं?

जो एनआरआई के नाम पर मेडिकल कालेज एंड इंजीनियरिंग कालेज में भर्तियां हो रही हैं और जो निजी संस्थान हैं, उन्होंने इस माध्यम से शिक्षा को व्यापार बना लिया है। आज मेडिकल कालेज एंड इंजीनियरिंग कालेज सब से बड़ी इंडस्ट्री पैसा कमाने की बन गई है...।

श्री सभापति: आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री गंगा चरण: इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप शिक्षा को व्यापार बनाने से रोकने के लिए कोई कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, the concern has been expressed by the hon. Member. The judicial pronouncement has come earlier. It has drawn the attention of the judiciary. The control of medical colleges and universities varies from State to State. This issue comes under different authorities. The MCI is only for approval of medical colleges according to their norms, and the Health Ministry is only guiding them. The universities also control these institutions. Today, almost all the private colleges are free. They are charging capitation fee. Some say, it is exorbitant, and it is a fact. But in what way we can control it, it has to be debated and discussed and decided. As it is, no particular norms have been introduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 5. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, he concedes on the floor of the House that it is a scar. ...*(Interruptions)*... Something needs to be done. It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I never said it is a scar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, he is saying that NRI means Gulf region only. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwalia, you have raised a good point. It needs discussion. We will have a discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, there are three categories — PIO, NRI and going abroad for a short-term. People are also going to Europe. Why do you concentrate only on Gulf? People are going worldwide. They are not getting the benefits. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I don't know what the hon. Member mean. But, what I said was what is existing today. It is not done by me. It is already existing. Out of fifteen per cent, ten per cent of the technical education as well as the higher education, not the medical, the supernumerary posts are going to Indian passport holders who are working in Gulf and other areas. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, he said, "Gulf countries only". ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: That is why...*(Interruptions)*... They are the Indian people ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: You said that. You can see the record. ...*(Interruptions)*... How many people of Indian origin are working in Eastern Europe and Europe? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ahluwaliaji, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh ...*(Interruptions)*... We have an agreement. The Government of India has an agreement with all these countries....*(Interruptions)*... Now, you are concentrating on Gulf countries only.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, what I said was that the record available in my Ministry is the record which I collected from other Ministries. What I am saying is what is available with me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we get on to Question No. 5 please?

Preservation of heritage in cities

*5. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that most of the heritage and history of our cities are being lost forever due to rampant and unfettered development; and

(b) if so, the list of cities most affected by this development and the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the same and preserve the heritage of our cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Ancient monuments of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which have been in existence for not less than 100 years are protected by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959. So far 3675 such monuments/sites have been notified for central-protection. In addition about 3500 monuments/sites are under the protection of the various State Governments under their respective legislations. The Town and Country Planning Acts of the States empower their urban and rural local bodies to protect monuments/sites in their respective jurisdictions which are neither under Central nor under State protection. In spite of these legal instruments, a large number of monuments/sites running over a lakh, are unprotected due to various constraints.

Some of the built heritage and antiquarian remains have already disappeared due to hostile weather conditions and pressure of urbanisation. As no comprehensive survey/documentation